

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3640 3.0 Section A
PSYCHOLOGY OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS
Fall 2018
Tuesdays 2:30-5:30
Life Science Building 105**

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Dr. Amy Muise

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Office	BSB 072	BSB 314C
Office Hours	By Appointment	By Appointment

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.0 with a minimum grade of C; HH/PSYCH 2120; 54 university credits.

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Lecture slides for each week, course information and student grades will be posted on Moodle .

Got Questions?

Questions about course content or assessments should be asked in class if possible so that **everyone in this class has access to the same information.** Questions that cannot be answered by looking at the course outline or Moodle can be sent to one of the TAs or Dr. Muise. Questions about assessments will not be answered 24 hours prior to the due date. This is to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to access to the same information and that some people do not have any last minute advantages.

Questions about missed exams, grades, and administrative issues ONLY should be directed to Dr. Muise at muiseamy@yorku.ca

Course Description

In this course, students learn about research and theory on the psychology of romantic relationships. Topics include romantic attraction, relationship formation, relationship maintenance, sacrifice, support, sexuality in relationships, as well as relationship conflict and break-ups. The course content covers different types of intimate relationships (e.g., monogamous, nonmonogamous, marriage, cohabitation, same-sex), in different contexts (e.g., long-distance,

online) and will highlight implications of relationships for health and personal growth. The course content will cover key theories in the study of intimate relationships, including attachment theory, interdependence theory, the investment model, and self-expansion theory.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate current theory and research on the psychology of relationships.
2. Interpret results from close relationships research studies and critically evaluate the findings.
3. Explain and critique psychological theories of relationship formation, maintenance and dissolution.
4. Articulate trends in psychological research on relationships.
5. Express in written form findings from research on relationships.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods used in relationship research and the limits of these methods for drawing conclusions.
7. Critically evaluate messages about relationships in the media using findings from relationship research.

Specific Learning Objectives

Students should leave the course with a broad understanding of the key research topics and theoretical perspectives in the psychology of intimate relationships. Specifically, students should have knowledge of the different approaches to conducting relationship research, understand the research methods used in relationship research, be able to discuss and evaluate key theories in relationship research, gain knowledge about how relationship theory and research applies to everyday life, compare and contrast different theoretical perspectives of relationships, and critically evaluate research findings on intimate relationships.

Course Materials

Required reading for this course includes the following book. It is available for purchase from the York University Bookstore <http://bookstore.yorku.ca/>

Textbook: Bradbury, T. N., & Karney, B. (2013). *Intimate Relationships*, Second Edition. NY: WW Norton & Company. This book is also available online as an ebook for a lower cost: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?id=4294979534>

In-Class Engagement: We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops or through text message. You can visit tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide for the Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running. An

email invitation will also be sent to your school email account (if you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our course website <https://app.tophat.com/e/615037> Join code: 615037. Top Hat will require a paid subscription of \$26 for one semester of unlimited access. A full breakdown of all options can be found at www.tophat.com/pricing

Course Requirements and Assessment

There are five pieces of assessment for this course: participation using TopHat (5%), a Science of Relationships report (10%), a midterm exam (25%), a research proposal (30%), and a final exam (30%).

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Date of Evaluation</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Top Hat Participation	During all lectures	5%
Science of Relationships Report	October 16th	10%
Midterm Exam	October 23 rd (in class)	25%
Research Paper	November 13th	30%
Final Exam	December 4th (in class)	30%
Total		100%

1. **Participation using Tophat (5%)**. Full credit comes from participating in 7 out of the 9 lectures in which we will use Tophat.
2. **Science of Relationships Report (10%)**. Answer a question you have about relationships using academic research. Your assignment will follow the style of posts on www.scienceofrelationships.com: short, to the point, and grounded in academic research. Think of a question you have about relationships; find 2-3 academic research articles that answer this question; write a short post (about 300-500 words) answering this question using the research you found. The assignment is due at the before class on October 16th and will be submitted to Moodle. The assignment will be marked by the teaching assistants.
3. **Midterm Test (25%)**. The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice questions on October 23rd. The exam will cover information presented in the first half of the course (the assigned textbook readings and lectures) and will take place during class hours.
4. **Research Proposal (30%)**. For the research proposal assignment (max 6 pages), think of a relationships-related question or problem that you find particularly interesting and important. You will describe a new research direction that begins to answer that question/solve that problem. You should provide a rationale for your research question (why is this important to explore?), a sensible and feasible study design, hypothesized results, and theoretical and/or applied implications of these results. You will be graded based on the novelty of the research idea, the appropriateness of your research design, the potential impact of your predicted results, and the overall quality of your writing (i.e., organization, logical flow). The

assignment is due before class on November 13th and will be submitted through Moodle. The assignment will be marked by the teaching assistants.

5. **Final Exam (30%).** The final exam will consist of multiple choice and will take place IN CLASS on December 4th. This exam is cumulative and will focus on all lectures and assigned readings (although more of the questions will be from the second half of the course, since the midterm).

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2018-19](#))

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

If a student misses the midterm for a documented reason, the percentage will be reallocated to the final exam. This means that if a student misses the midterm (worth 25%), their final exam will now be worth (55%).

You will have **48 hours** after a missed test or assignment to submit an APS or your grade will not be reassessed.

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within **48 hours** of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2018-19 - Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 18	Sept. 18	Jan. 16
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 2	Oct. 23	Jan. 30

Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 9	Feb. 8	March 8
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 10 - Dec. 4	Feb. 9 - Apr. 3	March 9 - Apr. 3

***Note:** *You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as “W”. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.*

Electronic Device Policy

My policy on electronic devices is that they should be used only for purposes related to the course. If your use of electronic devices is inappropriate or distracting to me or the other students, you will be asked to leave class.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is at the student’s discretion. I will take attendance to assist with managing the in-class participation application, but students will not be graded on attendance. A portion of the student’s grade, however, is earned through in-class participation.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity information [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#). These modules explain principles of academic honesty.

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#)

is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 3640 3.0 Section A course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule:

Lesson	Topic	Reading(s)
September 11 th	Introduction to relationship science: Why and how do we study relationships?	Chapters 1 & 2
September 18 th	Getting together: Initial attraction and selecting a partner	Chapter 5
September 25 th	Staying together: Theories of attachment and commitment	Chapter 3 (pp 94-112)
October 2 nd	Maintaining intimacy: Responsiveness and support <i>Discussion of Science of Relationships Report</i>	Chapter 7
October 9 th	NO CLASS—Fall Reading Week	
October 16 th	Maintaining intimacy: Sacrifice, self-expansion, capitalization, gratitude Science of Relationships Report DUE (submit to Moodle BEFORE class)	Chapter 7
October 23 rd	MIDTERM	All lectures and readings to date

Lesson	Topic	Reading(s)
October 30 th	Sexuality in relationships <i>Discussion of Research Paper</i>	Chapter 7 (pp. 258-261)
November 6 th	<i>Special Guest Lectures</i> Gender and sexual orientation (Rebecca Horne) Dating and technology (Stephanie Raposo)	Chapter 4
November 13 th	Beliefs and expectations about relationships Research Paper DUE	Chapters 9 & 10
November 20 th	When things go wrong: conflict, betrayal and jealousy	Chapter 8
November 27 th	Breaking up and being single	No readings
December 4 th	FINAL EXAM (IN CLASS)	All readings and lectures